

Tips for Writing Elite Performer Scripts

Congratulations! You've done the training for all of the basic trick dog titles and now it's time to earn the prestigious ELITE PERFORMER title.

Elite Performer focuses on 'taking your show on the road.' You will be using props to tell a story. Below are some tips for writing a trick dog story/script. Have fun and BE CREATIVE!

How to Write a Trick Dog Script for Your Elite Performer Routine

You can write a script one of two ways:

- 1) You start with an idea- "I want to write a story about my dog being the star of the circus." Then, you teach the dog the tricks needed to tell this story. Or,
- 2) You start by teaching your dog a variety of tricks. You might even earn trick dog titles. Then, once the dog has a repertoire of tricks, you choose a theme for your story and begin to put the tricks in place. THIS IS THE METHOD THAT MOST TRAINERS WILL USE—teach tricks first, and then develop a story.

Themes for Trick Dog Performances

You can choose from a wide variety of categories for trick dog performances. Below are some examples.

Location

Fun things to do in New York City
 Western U.S. – dude ranch
 Disney World –looking for Goofy
 Louisiana – swamp trip

Breed specific

Dalmatian (sit on toy fire truck; stop, drop & roll)
 Husky- arctic journey

Movies

(dog name) wants to be a movie star
 Star Trek
 Cinderella (or other princess stories)
 Snow White
 Men in Black
 Ghost Busters
 Lassie tricks – wanting to be like Lassie

Con't.

Children's Stories

Red Riding Hood

Aladdin

Three Little Pigs

Harry Potter

Dog stories

Good Dog Carl (some of his adventures)

Petlandia.com (these are books you can personalize, look and see what the dogs do)

Science Fiction

Monsters

Rocket to the Moon

Jobs

Working on a farm

Musician

Circus

Daily Life

Invited to a birthday party

Going to the park

Cooking a big dinner

Sports

All-round athlete

Adventure

Bear hunt/gorilla hunt (with happy ending)

Jungle trip

Putting Your Story Together for Elite Performer

1. Make a list of all of your dog's tricks. Since the dog must do at least 5 Performer tricks and 5 tricks with props for Elite Performer, indicate on your full list which tricks are Performer (P), and which tricks have props (PR).
2. Choose your theme. Your theme can be from the suggestions above, or even better yet, choose a theme that you came up with yourself.

Con't.

3. So you've got your list of tricks and you've chosen a theme. To begin to put them together, remember that every story has a beginning, middle and end.

The Beginning

The beginning of the story is the Introduction. The intro tells the problem or the premise of the story.

"Hello everyone, I'm Sandy and this is my dog, Spot."

[You can tell about the breed, age of the dog, (optional)]

"Spot is a very adventurous dog and today we're going to tell you a story about Spot going to the jungle to look for the big blue parrots. There really are big blue parrots; these are called hyacinth macaws."

The Middle

The middle is the meat of the story. This is where you match your tricks to the theme.

"Spot always wanted to go to the jungle and see the big blue parrots."

He was so excited* about this trip. He said good-bye* to his friends, and packed his suitcase.*

Then he had to get on a plane.* In the jungle, Spot had to hike and hike, weaving through trees* and jumping over creeks*..."

*indicates tricks

The End

The end of the story is where you "wrap it up" and tell how it ends.

"So that is the story of how Spot went to the jungle and fulfilled his life long dream of seeing big blue parrots and taking their photos."

To develop the script above (it is an incomplete example), begin with your list of tricks and weave them into your story.

How About Those Extra Tricks?

For Elite Performer testing, you only need 10 tricks. You can use more, but what if your dog has a long list of great tricks? In this case, you might want to do the 10 or so tricks for the routine, then, when you are performing, you can always say, "So that's the story of Spot's jungle trip. Spot can do a lot more tricks; would you like to see him do a few?"